

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(1). Applicant respectfully submits that it cannot prove a negative, and that the Applicant's specification teaches the operation as claimed. Applicant requests the examiner to point out any portion of the specification that teaches otherwise if there is a concern. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1-12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rapaport et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,890,152. Claim 1 as amended is believed to limit the Examiner's interpretation of the claim from being broader than intended. Claim 1 as amended is believed to now define over Rapaport et al, and a notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hochmuth, U.S. Patent No. 6,046,741 in view of Rapaport et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,890,152. Claim 13 as amended is believed to now define over Hochmuth in view of Rapaport et al.

No additional fees are believed to be due, however, the Examiner is authorized to debit Applicant's Deposit Account #50-1752 if any additional fees are required. The Three month Extension of time was requested along with the RCE and the fees paid at that time.

If the Examiner has any further issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by phone where possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Klinger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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